

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Christopher M. Leusner
Chief of Police



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Captain W. Adams
Captain D. Nelson
Lt. R. Shepherd
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Sgt. M. Higginbottom
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MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Middle Township Police Department is pleased with the continued progress to improve public safety in Middle Township. In 2017, we reported for the first time our Uniform Crime Rating was driven under 500 reported offenses with 497 offenses. In 2018, we saw another decrease and recorded the lowest level of crime reported in the last 26 years with 449 offenses. We believe this is a direct result of the investments made by Township Committee, personnel and technology.

Police Youth Engagement

The Middle Township Police Department recognizes the significant impacts and risks to children who experience traumatic events. Children who experience significant amounts of toxic stress, as a result of adverse childhood experiences, are more likely to have poor health, educational, and social outcomes. Police are in a unique situation to play a pivotal role to mitigate these impacts through trauma informed and responsive police practices and making referrals to our partners to help these children build resiliency.

As a result, all Officers received a two-hour block of training on Adverse Childhood Experiences which included viewing the documentary film “Resilience, The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope”. Training included an overview of neurological impact on the brain resulting in a juvenile in a persistent state of alarm and easily triggered into fight, flight, or freeze response. In addition, the training covered Juvenile Procedures, Trauma Informed and Responsive Policing Procedures, Handle with Care Program, Police Youth Camp, Stationhouse Adjustment Protocols, Runaway Follow-Up Procedures, and encouraging referring juveniles to youth programs such as: Cape May County Sheriff’s Department Explorer program, Cape Regional Medical Center Explorer Program, Junior Firefighter Youth Programs, Middle Township Recreation Programs, and any other respectable youth programs in the area.

In 2018, we launched a new partnership with the School Districts in Middle Township to assist youth exposed to traumatic events called Handle with Care. Many times when officers come in contact with a juvenile during a traumatic event, there are limited options for the officers to assist that juvenile. If a juvenile is exposed to a traumatic event, he/she might not be able to comply with the requirement of the schools the following day or longer. Through no fault of their own, the teachers or school administration might compound the trauma by disciplining the child (ex. homework not done, absent-minded in class, or acting out). The Handle with Care Program bridges the gap between the juvenile’s out of school and in school life and will provide for an opportunity to receive additional support from school. The program started in September of 2018 and we had **50 Handle with Care Referrals in 2018.**

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Rio Grande Efforts

The Rio Grande Substation continues to be a very busy place. In 2018, residents and visitors came to the Rio Grande Substation 219 times to speak with an officer, compared to 194 times in 2017. Our partners, Cape May County Probation and New Jersey State Parole, utilized the Rio Grande substation on a regular basis and helped us drive as much law enforcement presence in the area as possible.

Our Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) initiative, which focused specifically on Rio Grande, showed an increase in UCR reported offenses in the Rio Grande area in 2018 but it was driven primarily by Shoplifting Offenses:

- **In 2018 we had 184 offenses compared to 151 offenses in 2017.**
- **We use 2012 as our baseline for measuring success in our DDACTS program due to launching DDACTS on January 1, 2013. In 2012, we had 307 offenses.**
- **The number of reported offenses in 2013 was 229 offenses, in 2014 we had 281 offenses, in 2015 we had 278 offenses, and in 2016 we had 200 offenses.**

The Street Crimes Unit dedicated a considerable amount of time and resources to the Rio Grande area again in 2018, they made 69 arrests a decrease from 119 in 2017. They executed 16 Search Warrants, a decrease from 26 in 2017, seized 5 illegal firearms, an increase from 4 in 2017, and seized \$27,320 in cash an increase from approximately \$20,000 in 2017. The Street Crimes Unit seized Heroin, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, Ecstasy, K2 Spice, Marijuana and Prescription Medication in 2018. Note: The members of the Street Crimes Unit were assigned to the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office for Operation Forefathers for one quarter of the year. Operation Forefathers, led by the Prosecutor's Office, concluded in September and resulted in 27 arrests, seizure of 13 vehicles, over \$30,000 in cash, 6,540 bags of heroin, six ounces of methamphetamine, two ounces of raw heroin and numerous pounds of marijuana.

Proactive Policing Strategies

In 2018, we continued to focus as much effort and resources on Intervention and Education/Prevention as we do in Enforcement. Our partnership continued with Lighthouse Church's Christian United for Recovery (CURE) Advocating for Substance Abuse Program (ASAP). This program was inspired by the Angel Program in Gloucester, Massachusetts. The Advocating for Substance Abuse program allows us to assist citizens with obtaining help with their addiction. If a Middle Township Police Officer comes in contact with a citizen through an arrest, a field contact, or if a citizen walks in the Police Department and wants help with their addiction, they are treated with respect and compassion while we work with CURE to get them help. In 2018, we referred 7 people for help. This program compliments our Public Advocate Program in the Municipal Court through a partnership with Cape Assist, where we have been connecting people with services for over two years. In 2018, the Public Advocate assisted 109 people and helped to connect them with various services. Lastly, Patrol

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Officers continued to carry Narcan and deployed it 33 times in 2018. We deployed Narcan 26 times in 2017, 26 times in 2016, and 13 times in 2015.

Our L.E.A.D. Program (Law Enforcement Against Drugs prevention course) was delivered to the 7th grade classes in Middle Township for the very first year. The 7th grade program builds on our L.E.A.D. program curriculum delivered to 5th grade students in Middle Township. We also completed the planning for the #NOTEVENONCE Prevention Program currently being delivered to 10th grade students at the Middle Township High School. We added a drug prevention program, “Operation Prevention” for the first time in the Elementary #2 school, utilizing curriculum provided by the DEA. This program was taught to all 4th graders.

The Project Medicine Drop in our lobby continues to be used frequently by our residents. **In 2018, we collected 750 pounds of prescription medication through our Dropbox located in the lobby of headquarters compared to 537 pounds in 2017.**

Community Outreach

In the area of Community Outreach, we held our second annual Police Youth Camp and it was another huge success. In 2018, we hosted 65 kids for a six-day camp in July compared to 47 kids in 2017. Camp activities included physical training, military etiquette, K-9 interaction, team building exercises, and positive interaction with police officers. We partnered with Cape Assist for the Youth Camp, and they delivered a curriculum to the campers to help them improve decision making.

We continued with our existing Community Outreach programs in 2018:

- Sgt. Fran Fiore lead the 4th Annual “Crayons for Cancer Drive” to support children receiving critical treatment at Children’s Hospital in Philadelphia.
- We participated in “No Shave November” for a fourth year in a row and the proceeds went to family members of Middle Township Officers battling cancer.
- The Middle Township Police Officer Association had another successful year with our Toy Drive and Thanksgiving giveaway.
- The Meet and Greet Officer Program is now in its fifth year with the Middle Township AARP and is going strong.
- We had Bicycle Officers patrolling the business district in Rio Grande and our Bike Path is now connected to Lower Township.
- Our Program “What to Expect with Encounters with Police Officers” was delivered again in 2018 to students throughout Cape May County at Cape Assist’s Peer Leadership Conference.
- Our Mobile App continued to grow in popularity with more residents downloading the Mobile App and sharing information with us on issues ranging from crime to Code Enforcement and Animal Control issues. The App is as a free download available to our residents through either the Apple App Store or Google Play.

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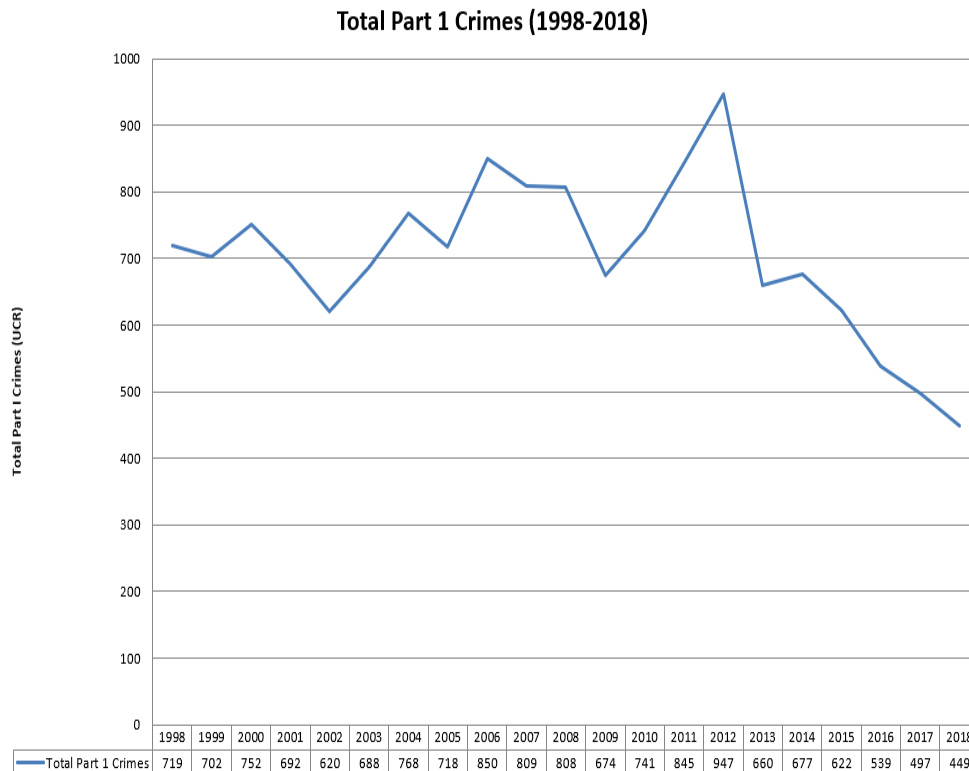
- We continued to raise awareness of the dangers of Distracted Driving by promoting our magnets that are displayed on vehicles throughout Middle Township.

Criminal and Traffic Activity

The Total Uniform Crime (UCR) reported crime number for 2018 was 449 compared to 497 in 2017. We saw a 13.8% reduction in non-violent crime: 397 offenses in 2018 compared to 460 in 2017. In 2018, we saw a 40% increase in violent crime with 52 offenses in 2018 compared to 37 offenses in 2017. There were 0 Homicides in 2018 compared to 1 in 2017.

Traffic activity within the Township saw a 2% decrease in total crashes. In 2018, we had 902 crashes compared to 920 in 2017. This is the third year in a row we had a decrease in total crashes. In 2016, we had 975 crashes compared to the 1,033 crashes in 2015. Injuries as result of crashes were down in 2018, a 15% decrease. In 2018, we had 129 injuries from crashes compared to 152 in 2017. The number of traffic fatalities stayed flat in 2018, with a total of 3. Motor Vehicle Summonses were up 16.8%, a total of 3,618 summonses in 2018 compared to 3,098 in 2017. Driving While Intoxicated arrests were up 19%, a total of 103 in 2018 compared to 87 in 2017.

Middle Twp. Uniform Crime Reporting Numbers past 20 years.



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ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

Current Sworn Employees

The list below reflects the Department sworn personnel as of January 1, 2019.

Chief of Police

Christopher Leusner

Captain

William Adams

Don Nelson

Lieutenant

Robert Shepherd

James Loftus

Doug Osmundsen

Detectives

Det/Sgt. Clint Stocker

DFC Allan McClure

Giacomo Trombetta

Jason Sweitzer

Daniel Martin

Brian Murphy

Special Services Unit

Sgt. Mark Higginbottom

Cpl. Phil Johnson

Cpl. Eugene Castellano

Cpl. James D'Alonzo

PFC Julio Ruiz

Ptln. Martin Lindholm

Class II Christopher Russ

Class II John Mihal

Class II Joseph Powderly

Class II John Sunderhauf

Class II Matthew Quinlan

Patrol Sergeants

Fran Fiore

Jennifer Delanzo

Tracey Super

Josh Bryan

Corporals

Fred Crawley

Leonard Larkin

Ronald Miller

Dave Hagan

Street Crimes Unit

Sgt. Ken Martin

Cpl. John Norton

Patrolman

Matthew Martino

Kurt Saettler

Daniel Geiger

Armondo Jones

Jeffrey Salvesen

Raymond Bradley

Brian Vergantino

Justin Vitola

Michael Pastore

Shawn Karge

Michael Reardon

Benjamin Stiefel

Jonas McInnis

Thomas Ritterhoff

Mark Bakley

Thomas Flounders

Dylan Young

Trevor MacCormack

Shawn Rocca

Thomas Runyon

Blake Martindale

Gregory DeCecco

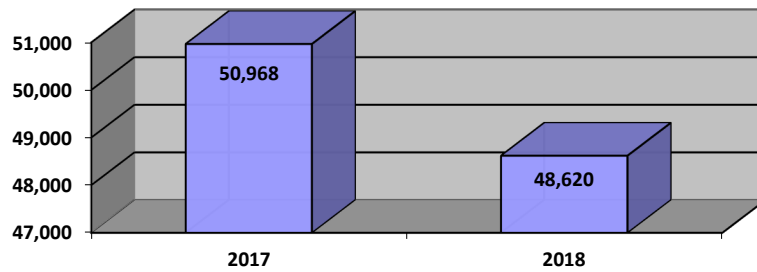
John Hotaling

Pamela Gittle

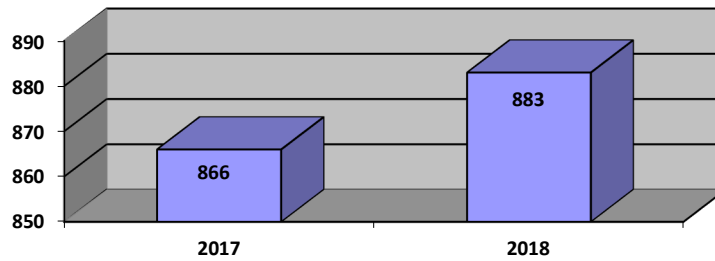
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CALLS FOR SERVICE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

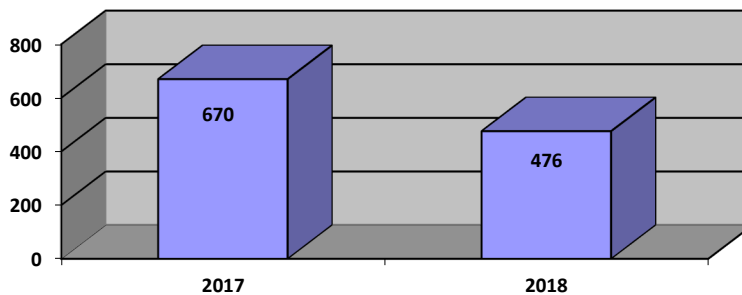
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Calls for Service:	50,968	48,620	-2,348



	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Arrests:	866	883	+17



	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Indictable Complaints	670	476	-194



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Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

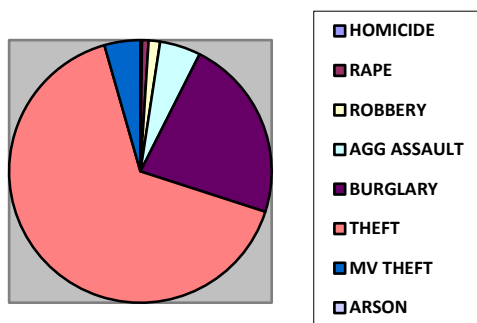
The Uniform Crime Reporting is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 17,000 city, county and state law enforcement agencies reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. It was established in 1930 to gauge the state of crime in the nation. There are main offense classifications known as Part I Crimes, used as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Below is a list highlighting the crime classifications and the respective number of offenses for Middle Township for the past two 2 years.

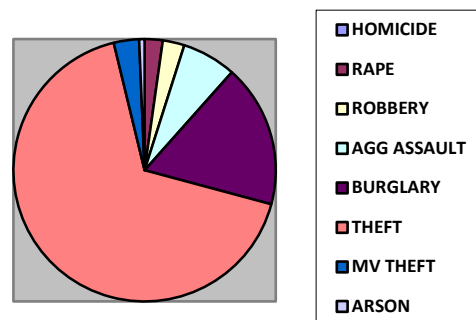
Offense: 2017		Offense: 2018		<u>Change</u>
Homicide	1	Homicide	0	-1
Rape	4	Rape	10	+6
Robbery	7	Robbery	12	+5
Aggravated Assault	25	Aggravated Assault	30	+5
Burglary	112	Burglary	79	-33
Theft	326	Theft	301	-25
Motor Vehicle Theft	22	Motor Vehicle Theft	14	-8
Arson	0	Arson	3	+3
Total UCR:	497		449	-48
Violent Crime:	37		52	+15
Non Violent Crime:	460		397	-63

Note: This is an estimate based on our monthly reports; the official report is released by the New Jersey State Police.

UCR 2017



UCR 2018



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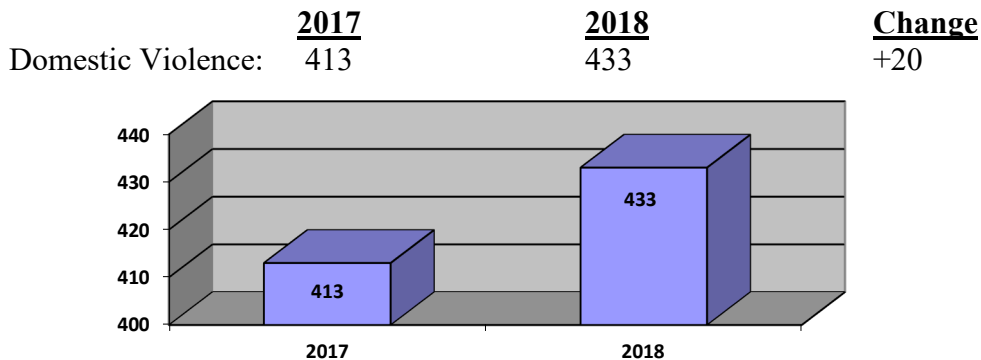
The following list indicates the classification of the other types of calls for service, both criminal and non-criminal in nature. The following call types were handled by the members of the Police Department in 2018 compared to 2017.

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Sex Offenses, other than Rape	23	38	+15
Simple Assaults	150	145	-5
Medical Calls	3,572	3,605	+33
Fire Calls	788	895	+107
Death Investigations	38	32	-6
Disorderly Conduct incidents	1,013	866	-147
Fraud, Forgery, Bad Checks	125	111	-14
Malicious Damage incidents	80	65	-15
Missing Persons and Runaways	99	108	+9
Assisting other agency incidents	501	566	+65
Property and Building Checks	18,936	16,399	-2,537
Bias Incidents Investigated	0	0	0
Directed Patrol	2,710	3,358	+648
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigation Reports:	1,594	1461	-133
Supplemental Investigation Reports:	1,732	1896	+164

Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is a serious crime against society and both law enforcement and the courts must aggressively address it. New Jersey has strong laws and protective measures for victims of Domestic Violence.

Middle Township is not immune from the problems and concerns of Domestic Violence. In 2018, Middle Township Police responded to **433** Domestic Violence incidents. In the year prior, Middle Township police responded to **413** Domestic Violence incidents.

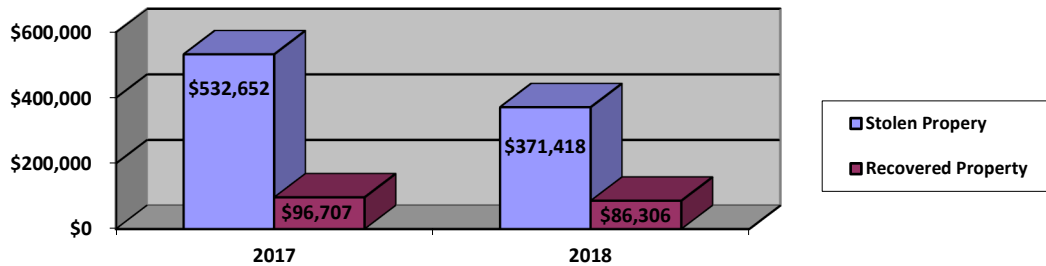


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Property Stolen and Recovered

Property offenses include Burglary, Theft, Criminal Mischief, and Shoplifting. The exact amount of value in the theft related offenses are hard to determine as officers and victims usually estimate the value of property stolen and recovered. Below reflects the estimated value of property stolen and recovered for the year of 2017 and 2018.

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Stolen:	\$532,652.00	\$371,418.00	-\$161,234
Recovered:	\$96,707.00	\$86,306	-\$10,401



Officer Line of Duty Injuries and/or Crashes:

During 2018, there were 14 work related injury incidents reported. As a result of the injuries, four of the officers missed time away from work.

<u>Officer</u>	<u># of Days Missed</u>
Det. Dan Martin	1 Day
Ptln. Dylan Young	7 Days
Ptln. Brian Vergantino	2 Days
Ptln. Shawn Karge	2 Days

Motor Vehicle Crashes While on Duty

Officers were involved in 6 motor vehicle crashes in 2018.

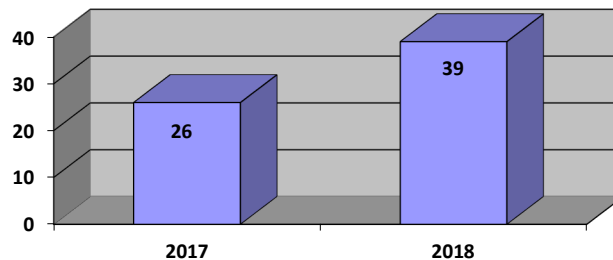
<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
Armondo Jones	April 30 th , 2018	Struck a parked vehicle
Mark Bakley	June 7 th , 2018	Struck a post
Julio Ruiz	September 12 th , 2018	Struck a parked vehicle
Chris Russ	September 23 rd , 2018	Struck a parked vehicle
Paul Mueller	November 14 th , 2018	Struck by a passing motorist
Shawn Rocca	December 10 th , 2018	Struck a curb

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Use of Force Incidents and Reporting

As required by law, each officer who uses force while making an arrest, or while handling an individual with some form of force to gain compliance, must complete a state “Use of Force Reporting Form”. This report is supplied each year to the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office.

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Use of Force Incidents:	26	39	+13



Of those 39 Use of Force incidents, 29 subjects were arrested and 5 subjects were injured.

Note: Each incident where Use of Force is used by an officer is reviewed by the Captain and the results forwarded to the Chief of Police. It should be noted that in 22 of these cases only compliance holds were used by officers

Officers injured using force:	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
	2	5	+3

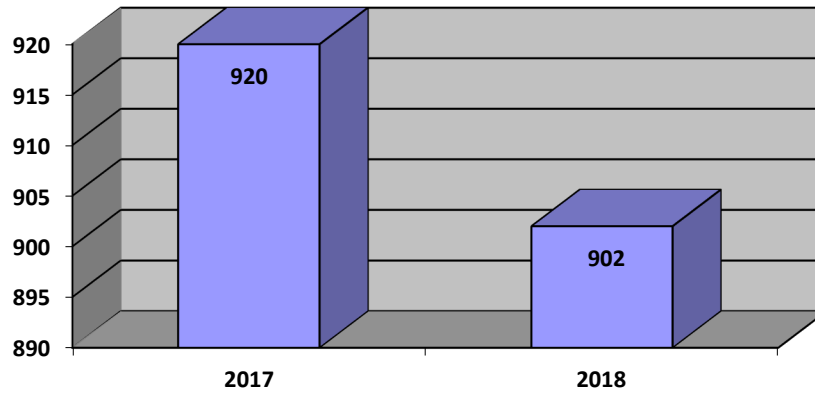
Police Pursuits:	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
	6	5	-1

Middle Township Police Officers were involved in 5 incidents involving motor vehicle pursuits; as a result of the pursuits, there were 4 people arrested, and one crash.

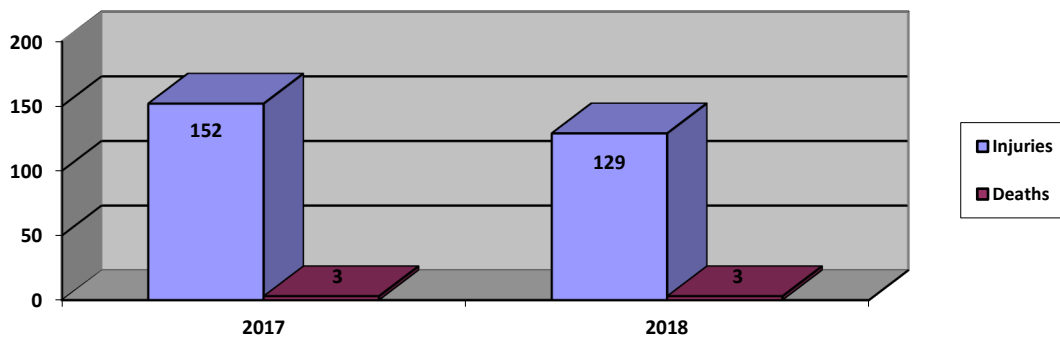
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TRAFFIC

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Motor Vehicle Crashes	920	902	-18

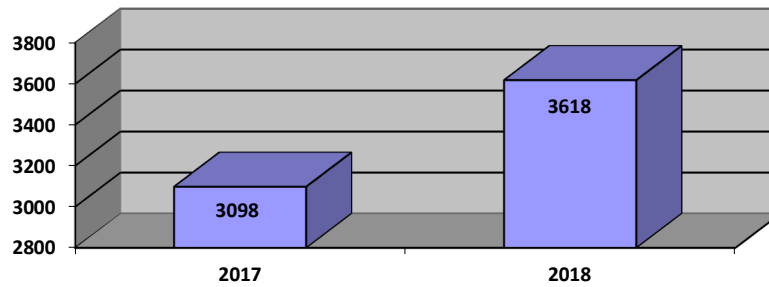


	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Injuries:	152	129	-23
Deaths:	3	3	0



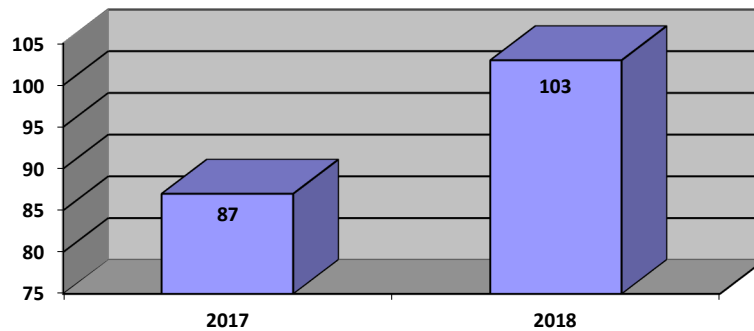
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	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Motor Vehicle Summonses issued	3098	3618	+520



Driving While Intoxicated by Alcohol or Drugs (DWI)

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
DWI Arrests	87	103	+16



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ADMINISTRATION

The Police Administration was expanded in 2016, as part of a restructuring with the addition of the Street Crimes Unit and assuming the Code Enforcement function. The Administration includes 6 officers, including the Chief. The officers are Chief Christopher Leusner, Captain William Adams, Captain Donald Nelson, Lieutenant Robert Shepherd, Lieutenant James Loftus and Lieutenant Douglas Osmundsen. The Chief of Police is responsible for the day to day operations of the Department: to



administer and enforce rules and regulations and special emergency directives, to the discipline of force and its personnel, to prescribe duties and assignments, delegate authority for efficient operation of the force, issue policies and directives, meet with the community, civic and religious groups, prepare grants, prepare and manage the Police Department's Budget and to report at least monthly to Township Committee.

The Operations Captain is responsible for the following areas: Public Information Officer, Accreditation Manager, Manage Standard Operating Procedures and Rules and Regulations, Manage Payroll, Manage In-Car Cameras/Body Cameras (Watch Guard System), Traffic Committee, Infectious Control Officer, Manage Alcotest units Manage Radar units/tuning forks, NJ Learn Coordinator, Emergency Management Officer, Traffic/DWI grants, Fleet Manager, Building/Cell Inspections, On-Call Administrator, Nixle Administrator, Assistant Social Media Administrator, Manage Station Video System, Body Armor Grants, Guardian System Administrator, Power DMS Administrator, Managing Human Resources-hiring and background process, GPS Trackstar Administrator, Supervise Patrol Lieutenant.

The Administrative Captain is responsible for the following areas: Internal Affairs Commander (Review/Recommend), JIFF Coordinator, False Alarm Administrator, Bail Reform Coordinator, Review Investigation and Supplement Reports, Assistant Public Information Officer, Safety Officer, Radio System Administrator, Employee Evaluations, Assistant Social Media Administrator, Fire Department Liaison, Maintain Battery Back Up System, Maintain Generators, Manage Station Video, Supervise and Manage IT Operations, On-Call Administrator, MVS 2000 Reports and Analysis, Manage and Prepare Reports for Forfeiture Funds, Prepare and Disseminate Weekly Crime Blotter and Arrest Blotter Reports, Prepare Grants, Manage Sick time Log/Early Warning Guardian Procedure, Parole and Probation Liaison, Cyber Security Coordinator, Supervise Lieutenants.

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The Patrol Commander is responsible for the following areas: Vehicle Maintenance, Patrol Equipment (purchase, maintain, issue), POSS Administrator (schedule/time off/OT, etc.), Review all DWI's and Accident Reports, Domestic Violence Coordinator, Manage Off-Duty details, Prepare Grants, Manage Statistics, Schedule Training, Training Development Coordinator, Hotel/Motel Association Liaison, Assistant Public Information Officer, On-Call Administrator, Order/Replace Uniforms, Field Training Officer Coordinator, Manage Class II Program, OSHA Compliance Officer, Special Events Committee, Municipal Court Operational Liaison, Manage and conduct vehicle inspections, Dive Team (people/training/equipment), Supervise Patrol Sergeants and Special Services Sergeant, L.E.A.D. Coordinator, Handle with Care Program.

The Administrative Lieutenant is responsible for the following areas: Dispatch Administrator, Records Administrator, Supervise Animal Control, Supervise Code Enforcement, Review Investigation and Supplement Reports, Internal Affairs Investigator, Crash Team Commander, Manage Crime Analysis Function Assistant Public Information Officer, Assistant Social Media Administrator, Coordinate National Night Out, Prepare Grants, On-call Administrator Hostage Negotiation Liaison, Honor Guard Coordinator, Manage CrimeWatch Video Program, Manage Vacant Property Program/Ordinance, Municipal Court Administrative Liaison, Manage Livescan Systems: Crossmatch and Morphotrak, Manage Comcast Accounts: Headquarters/Rio Grande Substation.

The second Administrative Lieutenant is responsible for the following areas: Major Crimes Unit Administrator, Street Crimes Unit Administrator, Review Investigation and Supplement Reports from MCU/SCU, Internal Affairs Investigator, Megan's Law Liaison, VICAP Officer, Maglocen Liaison, Manage Towing, Assistant Public Information Officer, Assistant Social Media Administrator, Bias Crime Officer, DYFS liaison, Internship Coordinator, Prepare Grants, On-Call Administrator Manage, Approve, and Audit Confidential Funds, Webmaster www.middlepd.org Appmaster-MTPD App: Google Play Apple App Store, South Jersey Real Time Crime Center Liaison, ACS/ATS Coordinator, CJIS/TAC Coordinator, Manage Verizon Wireless Account, Oversee Evidence Function.

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PATROL DIVISION

Patrol is the largest Division of the Police Department. Its primary responsibility is responding to calls for service from the community. These calls can range from neighborhood disputes, domestic violence incidents and traffic accidents, to burglaries in progress and death investigations.



As the First Responder to criminal complaints, patrol officers are responsible for seeing to the medical needs of anyone involved, interviewing witnesses, recognizing and preserving evidence, determining whether, in fact, a crime has been committed, and identifying and ultimately arresting those responsible.

Officers of the Patrol Division are also expected to provide proactive services such as traffic enforcement, crime detection and suppression, conducting business and property checks, initiating contacts with community members to further the department's commitment to Community and Problem Oriented Policing.

Officers assigned to the Patrol Division are divided into five squads. Four patrol squads are responsible for 24-hour street coverage, seven days a week. Each squad is supervised by a Sergeant with seven patrol officers and, at times, supplemented with Class II officers. The fifth squad, the Special Service Unit works 5 days a week. The squad is utilized to fill special needs of the department: Training Function, Court Security, Community Events, School Resource Officers, and assist the patrol division during peak times.

In 2014, our department began the process of training our officers for the use of Tasers. Our Department currently has 30 officers trained and 10 Tasers for deployment. As we move forward, the remaining few officers of the patrol division, as well as all new hires will be trained, so all officers working the street have another force option available before using deadly force.

Field Training Officers: (FTO's)

All police officers hired by the Middle Township Police Department must attend and successfully complete a New Jersey State Certified Police Academy. This department predominantly uses the Cape May County Police Academy. Upon graduation, all officers return to the department and are required to successfully complete a Field Training Program. The FTO program is an additional three months (564 hours) of intensive training and evaluation where the probationary officer is paired up with an experienced

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officer. The FTO officer has been carefully selected and trained as a Field Training Officer. It is the goal of the FTO program to prepare and develop probationary officers to act efficiently, effectively and safely in a solo patrol capacity.

The following Officers are designated as FTO:

Sergeant Josh Bryan
Corporal Phillip Johnson
Corporal James D'Alonzo
Corporal John Norton
Detective Brian Murphy

Corporal Dave Hagan
Patrolman Kurt Saettler
Patrolman Matt Martino
Detective Daniel Martin
Patrolman Martin Lindholm

Patrolman Armondo Jones
Patrolman Justin Vitola
Patrolman Michael Pastore

Patrolman Shawn Karge
Patrolman Brian Vergantino

DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Detective Division, otherwise known as the Major Crimes Unit (MCU), is charged with the responsibility of reviewing all incident reports and activities in order to prioritize and investigate criminal activity. Detectives work cases that are either assigned to them or come to them while they are on duty or on-call. They also initiate case investigations.



The Detective Division generated the following:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Initial Investigation Reports:	42	53	+11
Supplemental Investigations:	1214	1203	-11
Arrests:	49	54	+5

The Detective Division also conducts any and all police recruitment, police employee employment background investigations, 54 in 2018. In addition, the Detective Division conducts all firearm application backgrounds. The unit completed a total of 227 firearms background investigations in 2018.

The Major Crimes Unit utilizes a Case Management System. This system is designed to track all cases assigned to the Detective Division. It allows the Detective Sergeant to monitor the unit's overall caseload as well as caseload of each individual detective. This

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system also allows the Detective Sergeant to better assign new cases based on the caseload of the particular Detective. Case activity can now be tracked to ensure that no case is inadvertently forgotten. The Detective Sergeant also meets monthly with each Detective to discuss their active cases and strategies.

The following is a breakdown of cases as of December 31, 2017:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Cases Assigned:	277	231	-46
Cases Closed:	238	244	+6

Current number of active cases as of December 31st, 2018: **64**

Some notable cases handled by the Major Crimes Unit in 2018 include:

- **2018-00336:** Family Dollar, Robbery
- **2018-01317, 01857, 01858, 01859, 01860, 01861, 02303:** Bank of America, employee thefts.
- **2018-04323:** Shop Rite, theft of \$23,000.00 from a shopper's purse.
- **2018-15264:** Discovery of Skeletal remains.
- **2018-16090:** Catalina Motel, Maintaining a Nuisance
- **2018-16091:** Wildwood Park Motel, Maintaining a Nuisance
- **2018-26655:** Arson, 135 Springers Mill Road
- **2018-33637:** Robbery, Family Dollar
- **2018-38812:** Burglary, Nino's Restaurant..
- **2018-38981:** Aggravated Arson, West Anna Street
- **2018-39372, 39380, 42045, 42428, 42901,** Burglary and Theft of Motor vehicles.
- **2018-46714:** Shunpike Road, Child Luring.

The division handled numerous Aggravated Assaults, Sexual Offenses, Burglaries, Child Endangerment and Missing Person cases.

The Project Medicine Drop Program where residents can dispose of prescription medication 24/7, 365 days a year by simply coming into the lobby and dropping in a Dropbox has been hugely successful. **In 2018, we collected over 750 pounds of prescription medications.**



The division works on a number of open cases, such as the Mark Himebaugh investigation, with various agencies including the FBI, New Jersey State Police and Cape May County Prosecutor's Office. In 2012, an anonymous donor offered a reward of \$10,000 for the discovery of Mark Himebaugh, and \$25,000 if the information leads to Mark's safe return home. Anyone with information on the above cases, is asked to contact the Major

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Crimes Unit at 609-465-8700. In February of 2015, the Major Crimes Unit, along with members of the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and the FBI traveled to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, located in Alexandria, Virginia, where a cold case review of the Himebaugh Case was conducted. Following the review, investigators followed up on new leads and are actively working on the case.

Members of the unit during 2018 included:

Detective Sergeant Clint Stocker
Detective First Class Allan McClure
Detective Jack Trombetta
Detective Jason Sweitzer
Detective Dan Martin
Detective Brian Murphy
Part Time Evidence Clerk Mark DeVico
Part Time Evidence Clerk David Tomkinson

STREET CRIMES UNIT

The Street Crimes Unit was implemented to focus on reducing crime with a focus on the Rio Grande and Burleigh sections of Middle Township as well as the opioid epidemic. In addition to street level narcotics investigations, the unit worked closely with the Major Crimes Unit investigating major cases to include several robberies and theft investigations within the township over the past year. During 2018, six (6) members of the Middle Township Police Department were assigned to the Street Crimes Unit. During their assignment, all of the members authored a Court Authorized Search Warrant and were present and involved in the execution of the search warrant.



The following is a list of Officers assigned to the Street Crimes for 2018:

Sgt. Kenneth Martin
Cpl. John Norton
Ptlm. Martin Lindholm
Ptlm. Matthew Martino
Ptlm. Mark Bakley
Ptlm. Jonis McInnis

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The following is a synopsis of the Street Crimes Unit's 2018 case load:

A majority of the arrest were for Narcotics Violations. Other arrests included: Driving Under the Influence (DUI), endangering the Welfare of a Child, Employing a Juvenile in a Crime and Warrant Arrests.

Arrests: Sixty-Eight (68)

Search Warrants: Sixteen (16) search warrants were executed in Middle Township resulting in the arrests of individuals for drug related and other criminal offenses.

Narcotics Seized: Heroin, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, Marijuana, K2 Spice and Prescription Medication.

Currency seized: \$27,320 was submitted for forfeiture as proceeds of criminal activity.

Weapons seized: Five (5) illegal firearms were seized, .40 Smith & Wesson semi-automatic handgun, .380 Hi Point semi-automatic handgun, .45 Smith and Wesson semi-automatic handgun, and two (2) shotguns.

The following is a list of a few of our notable cases:

- **2018-01362-** Members of the Middle Township Police Department's Street Crimes Unit received information a subject was distributing large quantities of heroin throughout Middle Township. The subject was observed operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license. The vehicle was stopped and a K-9 sniff gave a positive indication on the vehicle. A search warrant was executed and a loaded .40 Smith & Wesson semi-automatic handgun was recovered from the trunk of the vehicle. The operator of the motor vehicle was a convicted felon and was unable to legally possess a firearm.
- **2018-04879** - Members of the Middle Township Police Department's Street Crimes Unit executed a search warrant on a home in the Rio Grande section of Middle Township. As a result, over one (1) ounce of cocaine and four (4) pounds of marijuana and over \$5,000 in cash was seized. The occupants of the residence were charged with numerous drug related offenses as well as employing a juvenile in a drug distribution operation.
- **2018-11385-** Members of the Middle Township Police Department Street Crimes Unit executed a search warrant at a motel room in the Burleigh section of Middle Township. As a result, Seven Hundred Seventy (770) bags of heroin, two (2) ounces of cocaine, over a half pound of K-2 Spice, a vial of PCP and \$6820 was

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seized. The occupants of the room were charged with numerous drug related offenses as well as Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

- **2018-14117**-Members of the Middle Township Police Department's Street Crimes Unit executed a search warrant at a home in the Cape May Court House section of Middle Township. As a result, one (1) ounce of cocaine, three (3) pounds of marijuana, a .45 Smith & Wesson semi-automatic handgun, two (2) shotguns and \$12,521.00 was seized. The occupants of the residence were charged with numerous drug related offenses as well as Endangering the Welfare of a Child.
- **Operation Forefathers**- The member of the Street Crimes Unit were assigned to the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office for Operation Forefathers for one quarter of the year. Operation Forefathers led by the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office concluded in September and resulted in 27 arrests, seizure of 13 vehicles, over 30,000 in cash and 6,540 bags of heroin, six ounces of methamphetamine, two ounces of raw heroin and numerous pounds of marijuana.

FORFEITURE

<u>Forfeiture Fund:</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Beginning balance:	\$25,789.49	\$33,093.46	+\$7,303.97
Forfeited monies received:	\$8,807.25	\$13,810.07	+\$5,002.82
Forfeited monies expended:	\$4800.00	\$4,946.87	+\$146.87
Balance:	\$32,996.74	\$41,956.66	+\$8,959.92

Note: Any minor discrepancies can be attributed to interest gained on the account.

MEGAN'S LAW UNIT

Although not officially a unit, the task of handling Megan's Law registrants within the township rests with the Major Crimes Unit. Detective Jack Trombetta primarily oversees the registrants with the assistance of other detectives. Registrants are required to re-register anytime they move to a new address within the township, even a minimal move as a change within the same building to a different apartment or motel room. Registrants must also register upon

**Megan's
Law**

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moving into Middle Township from another area as well as notify our agency when they are moving to another jurisdiction.

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
New registrants and/or moves:	21	8	-13
Average monthly registrant count:	73	84	+11
Low count	64	83	+19
High count	83	87	+4

During the year, 4 details were conducted to verify the addresses of the registrants. As a result, no arrests were made for failure to re-register with their new address.

SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

The Special Services Unit is led by Sgt. Mark Higginbottom, and is under the command of Patrol Lieutenant Robert Shepherd. The Unit has several different tasks to include school resource officers, training of the entire police department, court security, community outreach, all community events, maintain police fleet, weapons armorers, maintain, running the police department's youth summer camp and monitor the Juvenile Station House Adjustment Program along with various other responsibilities.



Sgt. Higginbottom and Cpl. Johnson of this unit are Glock Armorers, while Cpl. D'Alonzo is an Advanced Glock Armorer and a Patrol Rifle Armorer. This allows our Special Services Unit to maintain and repair the department's weapons in house.

The Special Services Unit leads many of the community relations initiatives such as our Neighborhood Watch Program, Informational Booths at Community Events, and the "Cops and Coffee Program". Our current Neighborhood Watch Programs are Friends of Davis and Teal (Rio Grande), Friends of 13 Curves (CMCH/Green Creek), Stone Harbor Manor Homeowners, Shannon Oaks Neighborhood Watch (Rio Grande), Gatherings at Cape May (Rio Grande) and Antina Lane Lookouts (Swainton). The Special Services Unit held **12 Cops and Coffee details** where they went to a local coffee shop or business and discussed with citizens any concerns they may have related to illegal activity in the Township. The unit also participated in or hosted several events throughout the year including the following:

- 4TH of July Fireworks
- Annual 4H Fair
- National Night Out

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- Cape May County Health and Wellness Fair
- Miss America Pageant/Parade
- Middle Township Harvest Festival
- Annual Whitesboro Reunion
- Annual Police Youth Summer Camp
- Operation Safe Surrender
- Operation KidSafe Community Event
- Book Bag giveaway Whitesboro Recreation Center
- Peer Leadership Conference
- County Dispatcher Training
- Crest Haven Nursing Home Active Shooter Drill
- DCP&P Active Shooter Drill
- The Gatherings Community Safety Awareness Presentation
- Active Shooter DCF School
- Hamer's Christmas Party at the Martin Luther King Center
- Home Depot Safety fair
- Brookdale Assisted Living Community event
- Gift bag pickup at Middle Twp. Elementary #1

The Special Services Unit also manages two very important programs to assist residents in obtaining services for issues ranging from homelessness to addiction. The first program is through a partnership with CURE, (Christians United for Recovery) and their Advocating Substance Abuse Program (ASAP). We provide access to recovery support services to a person requesting them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Whether an individual is under arrest or simply walks into the lobby, officers treat the person with dignity and respect and call CURE for a member of their Crisis Response Team to respond. **In 2018 we referred 7 people to CURE for help with their addiction.**

The second program is our Public Advocate Program in Middle Township Municipal Court through our partnership with Cape Assist. Middle Township provides a New Jersey Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor and or Prevention Specialist in our Municipal Court Room. It is well understood that those suffering from addiction often commit crime in an effort to support their addiction. They steal merchandise from stores, metal from vacant buildings, jewelry and money from family and friends, and even resort to more serious crimes such as robbery and burglary. When those suffering from such addiction are arrested for these crimes, they often appear in Municipal Court. Defendants who suffer from addiction and are arrested for more serious crimes often have the ability to learn about addiction services available to them, often through "Drug Court". However, with less serious offenses that are heard under the authority of the local municipal court, there are no resources available for these defendants.

The absence of any resources available in municipal court often leaves defendants, family members of those suffering from addiction, and even the Judge with few options regarding treatment or assistance. The Public Advocate is present in the Middle

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Township Municipal Court to assist defendants suffering from addiction, their family members, the Municipal Prosecutor, and the Judge with providing information about available treatment programs.

The Public Advocate also serves as a resource for the Middle Township Police Department in providing information about treatment programs to individuals who need assistance and information regarding substance abuse for themselves, a friend, or a loved one. **In 2018, 120 people we referred to services by the Public Advocate.**

The Special Services Unit is responsible for providing Municipal Court security and acting as the Municipal Court Liaison to the Municipal Prosecutor. The SSU also provided court security on **73 Court days during the year.**

In 2018, the Special Services Unit was responsible to launch our new partnership with the School Districts in Middle Township to assist youth exposed to traumatic events called Handle with Care. Many times when officers come in contact with a juvenile during a traumatic event, there are limited options for the officers to assist that juvenile. If a juvenile is exposed to a traumatic event, he might not be able to comply with school's requirement the following day or longer. Through no fault of their own, the teachers or school administration might compound the trauma by disciplining the child (ex. homework not done, absent-minded in class, or acting out). The Handle with Care Program bridges the gap between the juvenile's out of school and in school life and will provide for an opportunity to receive additional support from school. The program started in September of 2018 and we had **50 Handle with Care Referrals in 2018.**

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

The Middle Township Police Department instituted a community service program in 2011, working with the Cape May County Superior Court to have a work site for minor offenders to complete court-imposed community service. Under the direction of Cpl. James D'Alonzo, the community service workers are assigned to clean Municipal vehicles and property, clean up abandoned property where trash and debris have accumulated, pick up trash along Municipal roadways, clean up graffiti, assist setting up areas for community events and other tasks to assist the community. In addition to the services the workers provide, this program also strives to develop positive relationships with the workers with the goal of reducing future acts of criminal behavior.

The community service program expanded in 2015 with an agreement with the Middle Township Municipal Court to allow municipal offenders to have the opportunity to 'work



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off any new fines or outstanding municipal court fines that were unable to be paid by the offender. Many offenders were unable to pay off fines and were finding themselves in jail resulting in the loss of employment and a continued inability to pay the court fines. Community service allows for an alternative for monetary payment, and in turn, benefits the community.

Community Service Program Members

Cpl. James D'Alonzo
Ptl. Justin Vitola

Ptl. Dan Geiger
Ptl. Martin Lindholm

Ptl. Brian Vergantino

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program is a collaborative effort with both the Middle Township School District and with the Cape May County Technical High School. The School Resource Officer Program is incorporated within the Special Services Unit. *(Note: Middle Township has an inter-local agreement with the Technical High School and Middle Township School District for the services of the School Resource Officers)*

The School Resource Officer Program has two main components: first is designed to enhance the relationship among the members of the school district, its students, teachers/administrators and the police department. The daily communication between police and school officials prevents many problems and mitigates existing problems for both the school and the police; second is a component to provide a law enforcement presence in all district schools. This is accomplished through the use of patrol officers who, as part of their duties, conduct walk through visits to the facilities. The second component is to provide training and informal counseling to students, staff and parents



School security/action plans have been completed for all schools in Middle Township, including the Cape Christian Academy and the State Department of Human Services School. All plans are reviewed annually and updated if necessary, by the School Resource Officers.

In August 2018, we added a second SRO to the Middle Township School System. This allows us to have one officer assigned at the High School and Middle School, then another assigned for Elem #1 and Elem #2.

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The School Resource Officers conducted the following at their respective schools:

<u>Middle Township</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigations:	33	31	-2
Supplement Investigations:	19	16	-3
Arrests:	40	39	-1

<u>Cape May County Technical High School</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigations:	15	24	+9
Supplement Investigations:	6	18	+12
Arrests:	7	15	+8

Note: Our SRO's do other tasks with the Special Services Unit during the summer months and assist throughout the school year as needed.

L.E.A.D. PROGRAM

The Middle Township Police Department has conducted the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance and Education) Program in the Middle Township Schools since 1990 up until 2014. Starting in 2015, the Middle Township Police Department joined the L.E.A.D. (Law Enforcement Against Drugs). To date over 5,900



Middle Township students have gone through the DARE Program. The L.E.A.D. Program is taught at Elementary #2's fifth (5th) grade and Middle Township Middle School seventh (7th) grade. This program is 10 weeks long, and trained officers visit their assigned class once a week and teach a prescribed curriculum. In 2018, approximately 400 students were taught through the L.E.A.D. Program.

Officers who teach the L.E.A.D. Program include:

Sergeant Mark Higginbottom	Sergeant Jennifer Delanzo
Sergeant Tracey Super	Sergeant Joshua Bryan
Corporal Eugene Castellano	
PFC Julio Ruiz	
Patrolman Martin Lindholm	

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RECORDS DIVISION

The Records division of the Police Department supports the operational efforts of the Patrol and Investigative functions as well as performing a variety of other services, including but not limited to:

- Data entry
- Report maintenance/
Filing/Retrieval/OPRA requests
- Issuing Licenses
- Copy Reports for Civilians /
Attorneys / Law Enforcement
Agencies / Insurance Companies
- Expungement Orders
- Issue Temporary Handicap
Placards
- Division of Child Protection and
Permanency Backgrounds
- Process Firearms Applications
- Process Fingerprint Cards
- Process Juvenile Complaints
- Conduct Monthly statistics
- Handle Petty Cash
- Prepare Uniform Crime Reports



The work they do and the support they provide is invaluable. They are a great asset to this department. During 2018, the Records Section staff consisted of the following employees:

Kendra Karstens
Sandra Linz (Resigned)
Sandra Sickerott

Patricia Cornwell
Alexis Kern

COMMUNICATIONS

The Middle Township Police Department Communications Center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by full time Public Safety Telecommunication Operators. They are the initial point of contact for a majority of the public requiring police services. They are an extremely vital component in delivering effective police services to the community and their dedication and importance should not be overlooked. Many times they are required to maintain a reassuring and calming demeanor in the



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face of extraordinary circumstances in order to assist the caller and the police officer responding to an emergency. All of the Public Safety Telecommunication Operators are required to receive and maintain certification by the Office of Emergency Telecommunications Services in the Department of Law and Public Safety. Some of the examples of work performed include:

- Receive and respond to telephone requests for emergency services.
- In response to medical emergencies, provide First Aid or CPR instructions to stabilize the medical condition of persons until the arrival of medical assistance.
- Relay all vital information to responding police officers.
- Utilize radio, telephone, or other electronic equipment to dispatch specific law enforcement, fire department or medical units to the scene of an emergency.
- Refer non-emergency situations to the appropriate public or private agencies.
- Make data entries into the police department's computer system as well as various systems databases such as the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the State Crime Information Center (SCIC).

The Middle Township Police Department employs nine full time Telecommunication Operators, two assigned to each of the four patrol squads. The ninth operator is used to cover vacations, training, illnesses, and other time off issues, which helps in minimizing overtime costs. The department employs an additional eight part time communications operators who assist in staffing the Dispatch Center as needed during unscheduled shortages or other time off. It is mandatory, that at all times, there are two operators present in the dispatch center.

The following qualified and dedicated employees fill this highly important and stressful position as of 12/31/18:

Senior Operator Jennifer Graham
Senior Operator Dustin Gaskill
Operator Kyle Lindholm
Operator William Belles
Operator Dustin Kelly
P/T Operator Jeremy Embs
P/T Operator Maria Campaniello
P/T Operator Joe Repici
P/T Dan McDonald
P/T Brandon Mitchell

Senior Operator Robert Eagan
Senior Operator Dave Atkinson
Operator Tara Love
Operator Lauren Cajigas

P/T Mark Newman
P/T Operator Joseph Eagan
P/T Samantha Kelly
P/T Operator Ted Farina

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Middle Township Police Department Telecommunications Operators handled the following:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Calls for service:	50,968	48,620	-2,348
9-1-1 Calls:	10,552	10,496	-56
Average 911 calls per day:	30.9	28.9	-2.9

Senior Operator Jennifer Graham is a certified Emergency Medical Dispatch Instructor as well as a 911 Instructor. Operator Graham is also a Terminal Agency Coordinator.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Middle Township Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services that are fair, effective, and impartially applied. Toward that end, officers are held to the highest standards of official conduct and are expected to respect the rights of all citizens. The adherence of Officers to these standards, motivated by a moral and professional obligation to perform their job to the best of their ability, is the ultimate objective of this agency. The effectiveness of a law enforcement agency is dependent upon approval and acceptance of police authority. The department must be responsive to the community by providing formal procedures for the processing of complaints from the public regarding individual officer performance.

The purpose of the Internal Affairs Policy is to improve the quality of law enforcement services. Citizen confidence in the integrity of the police department increases through the establishment of meaningful and effective complaint procedures. This confidence engenders community support for the police department and improves the relationship between police and the citizens they serve by facilitating cooperation vital to the department's ability to achieve its goals. An effective disciplinary framework also permits police officials to monitor officer's compliance with department policies and procedures. Adherence to established policies and procedures assist officers in meeting department objectives while a monitoring system permits managers to identify problem areas requiring increased training, direction or policy changes. Finally, the Internal Affairs Policy ensures fairness and due process protection to citizens and officers alike.

In 2018, there were a total of **31 Internal Affairs Complaints** received. There were 29 cases that reached a disposition. It should be noted some of the dispositions were carried over from the previous year. See the below for the disposition types.

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2018 Internal Affairs Dispositions

Excessive Force: 1 Exonerated/1 Not Sustained

Improper Arrest: 1 Unfounded/1 Administratively Closed

Other Criminal Violation: 1 Sustained

Demeanor: 2 Sustained/1 Unfounded

Domestic Violence: 1 Not Sustained

Other Rule Violation: 12 Sustained/4 Not Sustained/3 Unfounded/1 Administratively Closed

Major Discipline Disclosure:

1. An employee was suspended for 90 days for policy violations and 6 days for conduct unbecoming.

The Middle Township Police Department works closely with the Cape May County Prosecutors Office and many of the internal affairs investigations are worked jointly between both departments. This is to ensure that the highest quality of investigation is conducted.

The Internal Affairs Division is commanded by Captain Don Nelson.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

The Middle Township Police Department recognizes that quality of life issues can have a direct impact on crime as well as the ability of residents to feel safe within their neighborhoods. In an effort to improve the quality of life for the residents of Middle Township, the Police Department assumed control of the Code Enforcement function of Middle Township. The Code Enforcement Unit is a civilian staffed unit tasked with investigating and enforcing the local ordinances of Middle Township.



The Code Enforcement Unit consists of two full time officers. Mike Elias also assists the Middle Township Zoning and Construction Departments as part of his duties.

Full Time Officer James Amenhauser

Full Time Officer Mike Elias

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The Code Enforcement Officers issue violation notices to residents who are not in compliance with the Middle Township Code. If a property is not brought into compliance, a complaint summons may be issued to ensure compliance.

Total Code Enforcement calls for service in 2018: 1146

Below is a breakdown of some of the more common violations;

Property maintenance violations 568

Uncut grass 399

Unregistered/Junk Vehicles 6

Illegal Dumping 6

Complaint Summonses issued for non-compliance: 70

VACANT PROPERTY REGISTRATION PROGRAM

Middle Township enacted a Vacant Property Registration Ordinance which became effective in 2017.

The Purpose of the ordinance is to:

- Identify properties in the foreclosure process (vacant or occupied)
- Require mortgage lenders to register properties that are in the foreclosure process and provide emergency contact information
- Provide emergency contact information concerning these properties and input that information into the Police Department Records Management System
- Identify deteriorated or neglected properties detracting from neighborhood values and report them to Code Enforcement for follow-up action
- Conduct regular follow-up and monthly inspections of the registered properties to insure compliance
- Conduct monthly inspections of the entire township visually looking for other properties that are abandoned or neglected and report them to township authorities

These duties are assigned to a contractually approved third party company that specializes in this type of activity. The current company who is handling this for the Township is *Preferred Neighborhood Solutions*, based out of North Wildwood, NJ.

Total Properties Registered in 2018: 204

This figure fluctuates throughout the year as properties are bought and sold and are no longer falling under the guidelines of the ordinance.

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ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal control services for Middle Township are overseen by the Middle Township Police Department. Animal complaints are investigated and handled by one full time animal control officer/animal cruelty investigator. In 2017, we added a trained part time Animal Control Officer, Kyle Lindholm. Kyle Lindholm is also a full time Communications Operator and has a good working knowledge of the Animal Control function. The Township also has a relationship with Animal Control of South Jersey to assist with animal complaints when the animal control officer(s) are unavailable.



	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Total Animal Related Calls:	1329	1297	-32
Animal Cruelty Cases Investigated:	127	111	-16
Unlicensed Dog Cases:	48	23	-25

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

One of the most important responsibilities of a law enforcement agency is the training and education of all its personnel. The Police Department has in place a comprehensive policy that addresses the organization and administration of the entire training process, including recruit training, in service training, roll call training and specialized training.

The Special Services Unit, under the command of Lt. Robert Shepherd, who along with Sgt. Mark Higginbottom, oversees the training component of the department. Corporal James D'Alonzo and Cpl. Phillip Johnson, members of this unit, keep track of all the mandatory training records. In addition, they identify problems and trends and then formulate strategies for training to deal with the issues for submission to the Chief of Police.



The lead training officer for the Department is Cpl. James D'Alonzo. He is charged with making sure officers of the Department are up to date with our training. This includes mandated firearms qualifications, less than lethal weapons qualifications, and policy

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reviews with officers on the subject of use of force, vehicular pursuits and domestic violence. Cpl. D'Alonzo also reviews safe tactics for officers to use during the many different situations officers may face during the performance of their job.

In 2017, Cpl. D'Alonzo and Lt. Shepherd implemented two additional eight-hour training sessions, labeled as "Advanced Training". This training is now mandatory for all officers and detectives to attend, as they have become part of the standard annual training for the department. These training sessions hit on training in such areas as active shooter, building and room clearing, weapon control and shooting, use of force, departmental policy updates, Court Case Law updates, dealing with Critical Incidents, De-escalation techniques and many more areas experienced in today's policing

The men and women of the Middle Township Police Department attended a wide variety of in-service training courses throughout 2018 including but not limited to:

- Blood borne Pathogens
- Property and Evidence
- Firearms Qualifications
- SWAT Training
- Hostage Negotiation Training
- Dive Team Training
- Assault Rifle Qualifications
- Active Shooter Response
- CPR recertification
- Use of Force
- Domestic Violence
- Vehicle Pursuit
- Interview and Interrogation
- Incident Command
- Hazmat
- Radar Instructor and Operator
- High Risk Motor Vehicle Stops
- Accident Investigations I and II
- Alcotest Operator Training
- Advanced Roadside Impaired Driver Enforcement
- Cell Block Management
- Arrest Search and Seizure updates and retraining
- HGN-DWI refresher
- Fraudulent Document School
- Police Supervision School
- Taser Training
- Field Training Officer
- Firearms Instructor
- Sex Crimes Investigations
- Search Warrant Preparation
- Handle with Care Training (Charleston, WV)
- Mental Health First Aid

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Police Department members who hold the rank of Instructor:

In addition to their normal work duties, several Middle Township Police Officers have attained the position of being instructors in a specific field or multiple fields. These officers conduct intradepartmental in-service training to department members. Many of them are also instructors at the Cape May County Police Academy. Officers who are instructors are as follows:

Chief Christopher Leusner	History of Law Enforcement and Community Policing
Lt. Robert Shepherd	Criminal Law, Physical Training Instructor
Lt. James Loftus	Firearms
Lt. Doug Osmundsen	Firearms, Social Media
Sgt. Mark Higginbottom	Patrol Concepts, Fair and Impartial Policing, Firearms
Sgt. Josh Bryan	Physical Training Instructor
Cpl. Fred Crawley	Physical Training Instructor, Defensive Tactics, Exp. Baton
Cpl. Phil Johnson	Firearms Instructor
Cpl. Leonard Larkin	Physical Training Instructor, Military Drill
Cpl. John Norton	Patrol Concepts
Cpl. James D'Alonzo	Firearms, Officer Survival, Police Simulator Instructor
Pfc. David Hagan	Patrol Concepts
Ptl. Kurt Saettler	Criminal Law
Ptl. Mike Pastore	CPR / First Aid, First Responder, Military Drill
Det. Giacomo Trombetta	Physical Training instructor, Boxing, Defensive Tactics
Det. Jason Sweitzer	Physical Training Instructor, Military Drill

SPECIAL UNITS

SWAT Team (Special Weapons and Tactics)

The Middle Township Police Department had maintained and operated its own SWAT Team for approximately 20 years. In 2007, the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, with the cooperation of the Cape May County Chiefs of Police Association, formed a Regional Countywide SWAT Team. In 2008, Wildwood Police Department came on board. The County Team is now divided into two geographical regions: Mainland and Island divisions. Every Police Department in the county has representation on the team. Middle Township Officers are assigned to the Mainland Division.



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Team members undergo a very rigorous training schedule, tactically, mentally, and physically. These members work with their respective agencies as officers doing normal duties, but when necessary are called upon to conduct SWAT operations. They are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The position of a SWAT member is voluntary. Selection to become a member of the team is very competitive and their own department must select officers. These officers are selected based upon their past performance and attitude. Then they must attend a rigorous two-week SWAT course. Team members must train at least twelve 12 hours per month and training sessions are held two times per month.

The Cape May County Regional SWAT Team was activated 46 times in 2018, 37 call outs being strictly Mainland Division Operations. The SWAT Team was also used for mutual aid for out of county and out of Jurisdiction assistance on multiple occasions.

Along with the SWAT callouts, the SWAT Team provided security for the annual Whitesboro Reunion, the Wildwood Roar to the Shore Motorcycle Event, the City of Wildwood's Beach Concerts and the USCG Family Festival. The SWAT Team was also used to make appearances at different police youth camps, LEAD events, and National Night Out.

Middle Township Police Officers assigned to the Regional Swat Team include:

Corporal Phil Johnson (Asst. Commander)	Corporal James D'Alonzo
Corporal Ronald Miller	Patrolman Brian Murphy

DIVE TEAM

The Middle Township Police Department maintains a fully operational and Certified Marine Search and Recovery Dive Team. The team is overseen by Lt. Robert Shepherd, with operations being supervised by Det/Sgt. Clinton Stocker. The department maintains 2 vessels: one is a Carolina Skiff center console, and the other is an aluminum johnboat.



The department has nine certified divers with a full complement of dive equipment. The team had twenty six (26) training sessions in 2018. Training takes place in local gravel pits, lakes, and in the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean. The team also attended/assisted with the Wildwood Polar Plunge, Stone Harbor Polar Plunge, Sea Isle Polar Plunge,

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Ocean City Air Show, National Night Out, as well as the Middle Township L.E.A.D day and The Middle Township Police Department Youth Camp. The team has been utilized many times to assist the US Coast Guard and other agencies in rescue and recovery operations.

Corporal John Norton and Ptlm. Thomas Ritterhoff completed a ten (10) day Underwater Crime Scene Investigation class in Columbus, Georgia where they received several certifications in these areas of, Underwater Criminal Investigation Specialist, Evidence Recovery Specialist, Body Recovery Specialist, Vehicle Recovery Specialist, Underwater Metal Detecting Specialist and received the Master Underwater Crime Scene Investigator certification. These certifications are also held by DSG. Clint Stocker and Sergeant Mark Higginbottom.

Members of the Dive Team are:

Lt. Robert Shepherd (Team Commander)	Det/Sgt. Clinton Stocker (Team Leader)
Sgt. Mark Higginbottom	Ptlm. Thomas Ritterhoff
Cpl. John Norton	Ptlm. Shawn Karge
Det. Jack Trombetta	Ptlm. Michael Pastore

CRISIS / HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS TEAM

The Middle Township Police Department employs officers that are certified and highly trained in Crisis and Hostage Negotiations. A county regional team was formed in 2009 with Middle Township's existing team acting as a foundation for the Cape May County Crisis Negotiation Team. The Middle Township Police Department has six officers assigned to the Cape May County Crisis Negotiation Team. The officers are available to respond to any incident within Middle Township or anywhere within the county to assist in negotiations. The team trains on a regular basis and is often called out in conjunction with the Cape May County Regional SWAT team.



The following officers are assigned to the Cape May County Crisis Negotiation Team:

Lt. James Loftus	Detective Dan Martin
Sergeant Fran Fiore	Patrolman Tom Flounders
Sergeant Jennifer DeLanzo	
Patrolman Julio Ruiz	

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HONOR GUARD

The Middle Township Police Department maintains a formal Police Honor Guard. The purpose of the Honor Guard is to formally represent the Middle Township Police Department at various official functions and community events. The Honor Guard members wear a formal uniform blouse and utilize ceremonial rifles and flags. The Honor Guard presents the colors at events such as Police Academy graduations, LEAD Graduations, Township Parades, and fallen officer funerals. The Honor Guard has also had the privilege of presenting the colors at the New Jersey Special Olympics opening ceremonies in Trenton for over two decades.



Members of the Honor Guard include:

Lt. James Loftus (Unit Commander)	
Sergeant Tracey Super (Unit Leader)	
Sergeant Josh Bryan	Corporal John Norton
Corporal Ron Miller	Detective Dan Martin
Detective Jason Sweitzer	Corporal Dave Hagan
Patrolman Kurt Saettler	Patrolman Jonas McInnis
Patrolman Brian Vergantino	Patrolman Greg Dececco
Patrolman Justin Vitola	

CRASH TEAM

Members of the Middle Township Crash Investigation Team have specialized training to investigate serious motor vehicle crashes. The members receive specialized training provided by North Western University and the Institute of Police Technology and Management. The courses are: Basic Crash Investigation (Crash I), Advanced Crash Investigation (Crash II),



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Pedestrian/Bicycle Crash Investigation, Motorcycle Crash Investigation, Heavy Vehicle Crash, Occupant Kinematics, Vehicle Dynamics and Traffic Crash Reconstruction.

These training courses allow the unit to complete the following:

- Scaled computer diagramming
- Mathematical analysis
- Damage evaluations
- Seatbelt, headlamp and tire examination
- Scene measurements
- Documentation of road type and tire friction
- High and low speed collision
- Bicycle collisions
- Semi-truck/commercial vehicle accidents
- Motorcycle collisions

The Middle Township Crash Team employs the following equipment to assist with crash investigations: Laser Impulse, Recon Data Recorder, Map Star System Angle Encoder, Prism and Pole, Drag Boot, Crash Zone software for scale diagrams, Measuring Tapes, Marking Paint, Chalk, and other miscellaneous equipment.

The Crash Team meets periodically during the year for training updates and familiarization with the equipment.

Members include:

Lt. James Loftus (Commander)

Cpl. James D'Alonzo (Unit Leader)

PFC. Steve Novsak (Asst. Unit Leader - Retired December 2018)

Ptl. Martin Lindholm

Ptl. Armondo Jones

Ptl. Matt Martino

Det. Dan Martin

Ptl. Justin Vitola

Ptl. Tom Flounders

Ptl. Greg Dececco

Ptl. Mark Bakley

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BICYCLE PATROL

The Middle Township Police Department utilizes bicycles to supplement patrol, as well as for special community events, throughout the year. The members assigned to the unit can be assigned to regular patrol cars and patrol units, but are equipped with racks that will hold the bicycle. When manpower permits, the officers will conduct bicycle patrols in business districts of the Township, some residential areas, and the Township bike path. In addition, these officers will be used for various township special events throughout the year. The bicycles are also used when we experience increased issues, such as burglaries or criminal mischief problems, in certain areas of the Township. The officers may be assigned to these areas to address the issue. Class II officers also may receive bicycle training and be assigned to the Rio Grande area during the summer months. The officers assigned to these areas help to increase officer visibility as well as making themselves more approachable to members of the public as well as business owners. The Special Services Unit can also utilize the bikes to maintain a police presence on the bike path, riding back and forth between Cape May Court House and Rio Grande.



Trained Bike Officers:

Sgt. Mark Higginbottom
Cpl. Phillip Johnson
Cpl. Geno Castellano
Cpl. Len Larkin
Ptl. Armondo Jones
Ptl. Dan Geiger

Cpl. James D'Alonzo
Cpl. Dave Hagan
Cpl. Ron Miller

DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERTS

The Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program is a national effort to deter impaired driving by increasing the likelihood that people who drive under the influence of drugs will be detected, caught, convicted and punished. The DEC Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and is administered and coordinated by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). The DEC Program focuses on a 12 step examination which makes up the DRE drug influence examination. The training consists of three phases: a two day Pre-School, a seven day DRE School and



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Certification Training which consists of 6 field evaluations and witnessing 6 other field evaluations. Upon completion of all three phases certification is achieved.

An evaluation consists of 12 steps. The initial is the breath test completed by the arresting officer. If the Blood Alcohol Concentration reading is less than 0.08% and the officer believes the subject appears more impaired than what the reading suggests a DRE is requested. The responding DRE performs more in depth testing of the subject to determine if the subject is under the influence of one or more of seven drug categories.

The Department currently has three Drug Recognition Experts: Patrolman David Hagan, Corporal Leonard Larkin and Patrolman Brian Murphy. **During 2018 these officers performed 14 evaluations (11 for this Department, 3 for other jurisdictions).**

In 2011, the Department joined a grant with Atlantic County. The grant reimburses the Department \$220.00 each time a DRE is called in to complete an Evaluation when the officer is off duty (\$110.00 if the officer is on duty at the time he or she is needed). The grant will also reimburse the Department an additional \$220.00 or if an officer has to appear in court for up to 2 court dates. **During 2018, \$2310.00 was reimbursed back to the Department through this grant.**

ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

The Middle Township Police Department participates in the New Jersey State Association Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. This is a voluntary state program developed by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police and is modeled after the CALEA national program. The accreditation program requires compliance with a series of professional standards designed specifically for New Jersey law enforcement agencies. The program promotes the best practices in law enforcement. The Department was initially accredited in 2006 and reaccredited in 2010 and 2013.



On October 23rd and 24th, 2016, a team of assessors from the New Jersey Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (NJLEAC) came to this Department to evaluate the Department's policies and procedures, management, operations and support services. The Department had to comply with 112 standards in order to be reaccredited. The assessment team was composed of law enforcement practitioners from other agencies in the state. The assessors reviewed written materials, interviewed individuals, and visited offices and other areas where compliance can be witnessed. After a review of the Department, reaccreditation was granted. Accreditation status is for 3 years, and during this period the department must submit annual reports attesting to continued compliance

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with those standards with which it received accreditation. In 2019, the department will again go through the process to be reevaluated for accreditation.

Captain William Adams is the Accreditation Manager.

FALSE ALARM REDUCTION PROGRAM



On May 3, 2010 the Township Committee of Middle Township, repealed their prior false alarm ordinance and approved an new alarm ordinance to encourage alarm users to properly use and maintain the operational effectiveness of alarm systems in order to improve the reliability of alarm systems and reduce or eliminate false alarms. Middle Township has always had an ordinance dealing with False Alarms, but with a decrease in manpower both sworn and civilian personnel, it is very time consuming to manage. A decision was made to privatize this function and Middle Township, on behalf of the Middle Township Police Department, entered into a contract with ATB Services to administer its Alarm Ordinance. In 2012, ATB Services was sold to PMAM Corporation.

In the past Middle Township had well over 1,000 false alarms a year that could be easily prevented. Each alarm in Middle Township must be registered so we can reach people in the event of emergencies. Unfortunately, approximately only 400 alarms were registered in Middle Township out of approximately 1,000 in operation. Many times officers and dispatchers were wasting valuable time trying to locate an emergency contact from an unregistered alarm or failure to update their contact sheet on file. This ordinance will result in a decrease of false alarms, quicker response from emergency contacts, and a more efficient use of one of the most expensive costs we have: the time of a sworn law enforcement officer.

The alarm program has yielded positive results which can be seen by the false alarm data below. Shown is a comparison of the years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. Numbers are the number of false alarms for each month.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2009	117	81	103	101	82	99	122	139	132	96	97	107
2010	92	150	135	117	116	118	142	99	77	78	78	106
2011	95	79	65	76	70	77	78	99	69	78	75	71
2012	77	59	74	69	72	90	69	79	68	78	59	76
2013	71	57	68	61	71	76	85	99	58	86	90	87
2014	101	66	76	60	76	80	64	77	74	66	74	66

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2015	78	79	70	77	77	100	86	89	76	89	73	71
2016	91	69	54	54	60	80	80	65	57	59	82	74
2017	61	57	77	75	57	72	91	66	64	84	77	93
2018	75	50	80	48	68	89	75	73	74	58	54	71

Yearly Totals:

2009 - 1,276

2010 - 1,216

2011 - 932

2012 - 870

2013 - 909

2014 - 880

2015 - 965

2016 - 829

2017 - 874

2018 – 815

Year to year comparisons:

Comparing 2009 to 2010, alarms are down by 60 which is a 4.7% decrease (updated).

Comparing 2010 to 2011, alarms are down by 284 which is a 23.4% decrease.

Comparing 2011 to 2012, alarms are down by 62 which is a 6.7% decrease.

Comparing 2012 to 2013, alarms are up by 39 which is a 4.5% increase from 2012.

Comparing 2013 to 2014, alarms are down by 29, which is a 3.2% decrease from 2013.

Comparing 2014 to 2015, alarms are up by 85 which is a 9.7% increase from 2014.

Comparing 2015 to 2016 alarms are down by 136 which is a 14% decrease from 2015.

Comparing 2016 to 2017 alarms are up by 45 which is a 5.4% increase from 2016.

Comparing 2017 to 2018 alarms are down by 59 which is a 6.8% decrease from 2017.

Since the inception of the program in 2009 to 2018, alarms are down by 461 which is a 36.1% decrease.

As indicated above, prior to the implementation of this program there were about 400 registered alarms within the township. As of this report date, there are 971 registered alarms which is more than double the initial number. It should be noted that on several occasions the officer is “cancelled” prior to arrival, or when the alarm owner/company determines police are not needed. This aspect of the program allows police to remain free to respond to other valid calls. This program has also resulted in better contact information being provided for police.

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MIDDLE TOWNSHIP AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Middle Township Awards Committee was reinstituted in 2010. The Awards Committee consists of Lieutenant James Loftus, Detective Sergeant Clint Stocker, Detective First Class Allan McClure and Detective Jason Sweitzer. The committee reviews submissions for awards and has the sole authority in making the final determination. Our Fourth Awards Dinner was held in March of 2017 and a list of the award recipients is listed below:



- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| • Chief Leusner | 15 Year Award |
| • Capt. William Adams | 15 Year Award |
| • Capt. Don Nelson | 20 Year Award |
| • Lt. Bob Shepherd | 15 Year Award |
| • Lt. James Loftus | 15 Year Award, FTO and Firearms Instructor |
| • Lt. Doug Osmundsen | 20 Year Award, FTO and Drug Expert Pin |
| • DSG. Clint. Stocker | 20 Year Award, Medal of Valor, Master Underwater Crime Scene Diver, Distinguished Honor Award |
| • Sgt. Mark Higginbottom | 15 Year Award, Master Underwater Crime Scene Diver, Distinguished Honor Award, Academy Instructor |
| • Sgt. Fran Fiore | 20 Year Award, Meritorious Service |
| • Sgt. Jen Delanzo | 15 Year Award, Distinguished Honor Award |
| • Sgt. Tracey Super | Meritorious Service Award |
| • Sgt. Ken Martin | 15 Year Award, Drug Expert, Meritorious Service Award |
| • Sgt. Josh Bryan | Instructor of Physical Training |
| • DFC Allan McClure | 20 Year Award, Distinguished Honor Award |
| • Det. Jack Trombetta | Meritorious Service Award, Dive Team, Academy Instructor |
| • Det. Jason Sweitzer | 15 Year Award |
| • Det. Dan Martin | 3 Meritorious Service Awards, Distinguished Honor Award, Crisis Negotiator |
| • Cpl. Fred Crawley | 20 Year Award |
| • Cpl. Gino Castellano | 15 Year Award, SRO |
| • Cpl. Phil Johnson | 15 Year Award, 2 Meritorious Service Awards |
| • Cpl. James D'Alonzo | 15 Year Award, Firearms Instructor, FTO, Academy Instructor |
| • Cpl. John Norton | Life Saving Award |
| • Cpl. Ron Miller | 2 Meritorious Service Awards, Medal of Valor |
| • Cpl. Len Larkin | Meritorious Service Award, Instructor |
| • PFC. Dave Hagan | Meritorious Service Award, Instructor |
| • PFC. Julio Ruiz | 15 Year Award |
| • PFC. Steve Novsak | Distinguished Honor Award |
| • PFC. Michelle Brown | Life Saving Award, 2 Meritorious Service Awards, Distinguished Honor |
| • Ptlm. Matt Martino | Distinguished Honor Award |
| • Ptlm. Kurt Saettler | Medal of Valor, Instructor |
| • Ptlm. Daniel Geiger | Distinguished Honor Award |
| • Ptlm. Martin Lindholm | FTO, Crash Reconstructionist, Good Conduct, Distinguished Honor Award |
| • Ptlm. Armondo Jones | Meritorious Service Award |
| • Ptlm. Jeff Salvesen | Distinguished Honor Award |
| • Ptlm. Ray Bradley | Life Saving Award, 2 Meritorious Service Awards |
| • Ptlm. Brian Vergantino | Distinguished Honor Award, FTO |
| • Ptlm. Brian Murphy | SWAT, DRE, Distinguished Honor Award |
| • Ptlm. Justin Vitola | FTO, Good Conduct Award |

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• Ptlm. Michael Pastore	Life Saving Award, Distinguished Honor Award, FTO, CPR
• Ptlm. Shawn Karge	Dive Team, Distinguished Honor Award
• Ptlm. Joseph Gamble	Distinguished Honor Award, FTO
• Ptlm. Ben Stiefel	Meritorious Service Award, Distinguished Service Award, Military Award
• Ptlm. Jonas McInnis	Life Saving Award, Meritorious Service Award
• Ptlm. Tom Ritterhoff	2 Meritorious Service Award, 2 Distinguished Service Awards, Dive Team
• Class II Rohrer	2 Distinguished Service Awards
• Class II Frangieh	Meritorious Service Award
• Class II Zeller	Meritorious Service Award
• Class II Dececco	Distinguished Service Award, Military
• Dispatcher Atkinson	Life Saving Award
• Dispatcher R. Eagan	15 Year Award
• Dispatcher Ted Farina	5 Year Award
• Dispatcher Dustin Gaskill	5 Year Award
• Dispatcher Jen Graham	25 Year Award, Recognition Award
• Records Kendra Karstens	10 Year Award

The Next Awards Dinner will be held in March of 2019

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Middle Township Police Officers have come together and formed the Middle Township Police Officers Association. Each sworn officer contributes money to fund the association. The purpose of the association is to support a morale and welfare account.

Over the past several years the association has supported numerous community events and partnered with the community to help those less fortunate. The highlights of 2018 included our annual toy drive, partnered with ACME Markets to deliver Thanksgiving meals, participated in No Shave November to raise \$2,270 (\$17,265 when combining efforts from other county departments) for a Cape May County family with a family member fighting cancer and donated to the Police Unity Tour for fallen officers. The Fund also supports the Awards Dinner and Retiree Luncheon.



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- The Chief of Police attended the following community/civic group's meetings/events in 2017: Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, Cape May Court House AARP, Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, Cape Assist, First Baptist Church of Whitesboro, Christ Gospel Church, the Branches Outreach Center, Family Success Center and Elementary#1 Reading Night.
- The Middle Township Police Department continues to grow its Facebook fans, Twitter followers and Nixle contacts to communicate with the residents.
- Officers maintained an informational show booth at the annual 4H Fair, the Harvest Festival, ACCC Community Day, Home Depot Safety Day, K-Mart safety day, Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro Reunion Weekend, and the Cape May County Health Fair.
- Coordinated the annual and very successful "America's National Night Out Against Crime Event" in August. Retired Corporal Butch Hamer volunteers his time to coordinate this event.
- The Middle Township Police Department supports the Special Olympics by supplying an Honor Guard at the opening ceremonies of the New Jersey State Special Olympics and supplies the Dive Team and boat for the Polar Plunge in Wildwood and Sea Isle City.
- "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day" which Middle Township Police Department helps promote, recognizes the loss of Kevin Lamb in a crash, son of Caryn Rixey; she had approached the Department a few years ago to participate in the program. Our efforts are focused on raising awareness of safe driving with the goal of having no fatalities for one day in the United States.
- Middle Township released a Mobile App available for free download to all residents and visitors to receive updates and information from us.



2018 Goals/Results

Patrol Division

In 2018, the Patrol Division had set two Goals. The first goal was to improve the quality of life and improve the safety of residents in the Rio Grande Section of Middle Township. In 2013, the Department established the DDACTS zone in Rio Grande. Patrols were increased in the zone during peak days and times of criminal activity and motor vehicle accidents. The objective of the 2018 goal was to maintain the number of Traffic Stops in the DDACTS compared to 2017, and conduct a minimum of one foot patrol per shift. Our number of foot patrols in 2018 was 898, which is down 74 from 972 in 2017. Although down by 74, we still exceeded our goal of one per shift by 168 details. Traffic stops were at 2,061, down from 2,208 in 2017. The patrol division saw a decrease in this immediate area, but an increase of almost 18% in motor vehicle stops and 33% increase in traffic details along Route 47 south. The overall crime rate in the DDACTS zone in 2017 was 151 offenses down from 200 in 2016, which was a 24.5% decrease. This continued to steadily drop, from the 2012 rate of 307, the year prior to establishing the DDACTS zone. This year the crime increased a little, to 184, which is still a 40% decrease since the start of the program. Motor Vehicle crashes in the DDACTS zone decreased approximately 6%, from 336 in 2017 to 317 in 2018. In 2017, there were 47 Crashes involving injury, this dropped to 37 in 2018.

The second goal was to promote resiliency in township youth by increasing positive interactions with Law Enforcement. Officers were asked to conduct a minimum of one community policing youth contact per week, during which they would recruit for the Cape May County Sheriff's Department Explorer Program.

- In 2018 four Middle Twp. Police Officers were assigned to assist the CMC Sheriff's Department with the Explorer Program. They assisted with meetings and functions where the Explorers were used. These officers are;
 - o Cpl. David Hagan (Lead Officer)
 - o Ptlm. Matt Martino
 - o Ptlm. Jonas McInnis
 - o Ptlm. Brian Vergantino
- A Final Call Type to track the Youth Contacts was implemented the start of the 3rd quarter. During the 3rd and 4th quarter, a total of 58 Community Policing youth contacts were recorded.
- Two new Explorers were recruited during the year.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Special Services Unit

The Special Services Unit had set two goals for 2018. The first goal was to increase the Department's communication with school districts related to youth in need of support and raise awareness of youth to report concerning behavior anonymously. In 2018, we implemented a program titled "Handle With care". Four officers were sent to training in Charleston, WV, where the program originated. These officers then developed a policy and started the program in September for the first day of school. The program allows for our police department to notify the school districts when a child has had contact with Law Enforcement, and the contact was involving a traumatic experience. The goal of this program is to give the schools notice that due to a traumatic experience, the child may suffer emotional, mental or physical stress which may cause the child to suffer during the school day. In hopes that the school takes action and does not contribute to the stress. Since the first day of school, our officers have been referring children to the program whenever they have had any contact during traumatic, police involved event. Since September 1, 2018 our officers have referred 54 students to the program.

The second goal was to reduce the number of outstanding warrants for non-violent offenses in Middle Township., in a manner to help move them forward in a productive manner. On September 28, 2018 the Special Services Unit, along with help from the Cape May County Superior Court and Middle Township Municipal Court, conducted "Operation Safe Surrender". This program allowed for 95 people to take advantage of having their warrants handled without being arrested.

Major Crimes Unit

In 2018, the Middle Township Police Department's Major Crimes Unit set two goals. The first goal was to increase the awareness of the dangers of sexting and cell phone safety amongst youth and to reduce the number of items currently in our evidence vault and improve the efficiency of the Property/Evidence Function.

2018: Goal # 1

The Middle Township Police Department's Major Crimes Unit along with the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office conducted four (4) presentations on the dangers of Sexting to the students at the 7th and 8th graders at the Middle Township Middle School and the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th graders at the Middle Township High School. We also held a presentation on the dangers of "Sexting" and "Hidden Apps" on cell phones to the parents of the students who attend the Middle Township school systems. This presentation was also open for the public to attend.

"Danger of Texting" pamphlets were purchased and distributed to the Middle Township Middle School, the Middle Township High School and the Cape May County Technical

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

High School by the school resource officers. These pamphlets were also given to the Uniform Patrol Division to use during their sexting investigations and to distribute to the public where citizens inquire information in this area.

The Major Crimes Unit also posted videos on the “The Dangers of Sexting” to social media sights for the public to view.

2018: Goal #2

In July of 2018, Detective Daniel Martin was assigned to reduce the number of items currently in evidence and improve the efficiency of this unit. From July of 2018 to December 31, 2018, Detective Martin has been going through every case individually, over nine thousand cases, to see if the evidence in each case can be destroyed. As of now, he has approximately (2000) items that can be destroyed. This was found to be a time-consuming task due to hundreds of the cases having to be hand searched in our records room due to them not being in our computer system due to the age of the cases. Detective Martin was also sent to two evidence classes where he learned the ins and outs of the B.E.A.S.T. Evidence system and had implemented what he had learned into our system which enabled us to utilize it to the maximum efficiently.

An audit of the evidence room was also conducted and all the items listed in the B.E.A.S.T. evidence system were accounted for.

To this date, we have not implemented the DNA Marking Program, a goal in 2017, due to the high cost of the marking kits.

Appendix A: 2019 Proposals

New Public Safety Building Study

The Middle Township Police Department Police Headquarters is in need of repairs and more functional space to deliver our services. The current Police Headquarters was first constructed in the early 1970's. We can expect this problem to worsen as the Township and the Police Department grow in the coming years. We believe it is important to explore all options to understand what the best path is forward in a fiscally responsible manner to address these concerns. The Township approved a small contract with an experienced Architect to consider all options in 2018 and we look forward to continuing this discussion.

Constitutional Center Training

This was a proposal from the 2017 Annual Report but we were unable to implement this initiative due to staffing shortages. This remains a proposal and we hope to begin sending Middle Township Police Officers through a training program at the National Constitutional Center in Philadelphia in 2019. The training program, called "Policing in a More Perfect Union", will focus on the power and responsibility of officers' role as police in a democratic society to protect the constitutional rights of all people. This training will build upon the training program officers received in 2015, "The Law Enforcement and Society: Lessons of the Holocaust" at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County in Glen Cove, New York.

Community Resource Training Program

We are constantly trying to understand the root cause of many of the issues we face in Middle Township. Chief Leusner serves on a coalition called, "Cape Regional Wellness Alliance" who believes children that are exposed to significant amounts of trauma are the root cause of many of the challenges facing our communities. The focus of the work of the Alliance is to identify ways to support and promote resiliency amongst our youth in Cape May County. In 2018, all Middle Township Police Officers received training in Adverse Childhood Experiences to help officers recognize youth in need of support services and we implemented our Handle Care Program in partnerships with all schools in Middle Township. In 2019, all Middle Township Police Officers will receive training on all available community resources in the region to call upon when making referrals through Cape Assist.

Capital Improvements

1. Replace Weapons and Tactical Vests. \$50,000

We would like to replace all of our weapons from .45 Caliber Glocks to .9MM Glocks. Our current .45 Caliber Glocks are over 20 years old the number of repairs have been increasing. The technology of the .9MM round has advanced to the point where we feel comfortable with the effectiveness of the round. This change would also save approximately \$3,000 a year in our ammunition costs.

Appendix A: 2019 Proposals

We would also like to purchase officers tactical vests. Officers are carrying more items on their person than ever before: Tasers, Trauma Kits, Body Cameras, etc.... Some of our officers do not have enough room on their duty belt to carry all the items. The change to a tactical vest allows officers to carry all of our necessary equipment and be more comfortable.

2. Replace Fingerprint Machine Rio Substation \$18,115

3. Replace Stationhouse Video System \$25,000

We currently have a stationhouse video that is over 7 years old. It takes a considerable amount of time to burn videos and it drags down our video evidence function. Our other camera systems burn video much quicker and an upgraded stationhouse video system will significantly improve efficiency.

4. New Alcotest Machine \$21,000

This new machine is a mandate from the State of New Jersey. The current machine is being replaced and will not be supported by the New Jersey State Police.

5. Fire Prevention System \$5,000

We would like to add enhanced fire detection sensors in server/radio room and records room on the second floor of the old Firehouse.

6. Surveillance Cameras on Bike Path and some Intersections \$75,000

We have met with Verizon and identified surveillance systems at a reasonable cost. The bike path is being utilized by more residents and visitors each year and this will help not only deter crime but assist in the investigation if we have an incident. We would also like to install cameras at some major intersections to help solve crimes that occur within the Township.

7. Security Doors \$10,000

We installed key fobs for enhanced security throughout most of the Police Department in 2017. If we decide not to move forward with a new Police Headquarters in the next few years, we should add key fobs at the Firehouse Garage doors and SWAT and Dive Storage Rooms in the rear of the Firehouse.

Appendix B: 2019 Goals

Patrol Division

Goal #1

Maintain our enforcement goals set for the Rio Grande area, as well as the Route 47 corridor through Middle Twp. Improve quality of life and safety of residents in Rio Grande and increase safety for motorists traveling on State Highway 47.

Objective:

Maintain the number of DDACTS Traffic Stops in 2018 as compared to 2017, conduct a minimum of 1 foot patrol per shift per squad in the DDACT Zone, conduct a minimum of one radar detail a shift per shift per squad on Route 47 between milepost 5 and 8 and milepost 12 and 16.

Strategies:

1. Continue DDACTS enforcement area in Rio Grande (Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety policing model).
2. Maintain patrol time and police activity during our peak days and times.
3. Position an older Patrol Car on State Highway 47 in strategic areas of the roadway during high-risk weekends or holidays.
4. Utilize Class II officers to partially focus on the Route 47 in the above areas.
5. Educate the public through social media and traditional media on aggressive driving, distracted driving, and driving while under the influence.

Goal #2:

Foster and promote resiliency through positive police youth engagement.

Objective:

Conduct a minimum of 2 monthly youth contacts when there is a not a Call for Service or Emergency.

Strategies:

1. Conduct walk throughs on a regular basis at the Township Recreation Centers.
2. Conduct walk throughs on a regular basis at Township Schools.
3. Provide resources to juveniles on various youth activities developed by the Special Services Unit.
4. Increase positive field contacts with juveniles during routine patrol
5. Use the Police Youth Camp as an opportunity to recruit youth to the Cape May County Sheriff's Department Explorer Program and/or other Programs.

Appendix B: 2019 Goals

Major Crimes Unit

Goal #1

Develop a plan to enhance criminal investigations department wide through increased continuing education and training.

Objective:

Develop at least three training programs to cover criminal investigative techniques, interviewing, evidence collection and report writing to be delivered to all sworn personnel by the end of 2019.

Strategies:

1. Develop lessons plans to be approved by the Chief of Police.
2. Coordinate with Lieutenant Robert Shepherd for training allotment on department training days.
3. Conduct follow up briefing training for all squads.
4. Distribute training material at least quarterly through our Policy Management System, Power DMS.

Goal #1

Improve the tracking of sex offenders within Middle Township and transition to the newly mandated Offender Search Tracking System.

Objective:

Conduct 4 random checks to verify sex offenders are residing at their registered addresses, to ensure all sex offenders are not in violation and to help track the location of all sex offenders within Middle Township.

Strategies:

1. Conduct checks throughout the year to verify the addresses of all sex offenders.
2. Conduct random audit to ensure an updated list of sex offenders in our Computer Aided Dispatch System. The audit will include a review to confirm a flag has been correctly entered for each address.
3. Coordinate with the Street Crimes Unit at least quarterly to review intelligence on current homeless population and address any Megan Law violations.

Appendix B: 2019 Goals

Special Services Unit

Goal#1

Increase the Department's positive interactions with Youth in the Township.

Objective:

Develop a Police Officer Trading Card Program by the end of 2019.

Strategies:

1. Identify a company to print the Police Officer Trading Cards.
2. Coordinate with the Major Crimes Unit for photographs of the officers.
3. Develop and coordinate with the Trading Card Company on the design and content to be displayed on the card.
4. Develop and coordinate briefing training on the program and distribute cards to the officers.

Goal#2

Increase the safety of all Middle Township Schools.

Objective:

Plan, Schedule and Coordinate a training exercise at one of the Middle Township School Buildings by the end of 2019 and at least two plain clothes details testing existing security protocols.

Strategies:

1. Identify a school willing to partner and host the exercise.
2. Develop a critical incident scenario for the training exercise.
3. Partner with the Cape May County Prosecutor's for assistance in evaluating and critiquing response.
4. Conduct an after action review and include lessons learned in 3rd training day for all personnel.

Appendix B: 2019 Goals

Street Crimes Unit

Goal #1

Reduce the use and distribution of methamphetamine throughout Middle Township by targeting methamphetamine distributors and methamphetamine distribution locations identified through intelligence information received from the public and confidential informants.

Objective:

Initiate criminal investigations into the distribution of methamphetamine that results in at least 6 arrests by the end of 2019.

Strategies:

1. Work closely with and share information with the Major Crimes Unit as well as the Cape May County Gangs, Guns and Narcotics Task Force.
2. Gather intelligence information pertaining to the subjects responsible for the distribution of methamphetamine.
3. Execute search warrants on residences where methamphetamine is being distributed and arrest those distributing methamphetamine.

Goal#2

Increase the safety of motorists and pedestrians on the Middle Township Bicycle Path and Whitesboro area by reducing the number of All-Terrain Vehicles operating illegally.

Objective:

Conduct at least one detail a month to identify violators and issue the appropriate charges and develop educational materials on the dangers of operating All-Terrain Vehicles on the bike path and roadways to be distributed at all Township Schools by the end of 2019.

Strategies:

1. Coordinate with the Patrol Commander on details in conjunction with the Patrol Division.
2. Conduct surveillance operations to identify repetitive offenders.
3. Develop public safety awareness materials and consequences for convictions for violations of local ordinances and motor vehicle statutes.